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**Title:**

Press release - Constitution Act Amendment Bill

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PRESS RELEASE.

FROM: LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (MR. DUNSTAN).

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Dunstan) today told a Press conference that the Legislative Council was deliberately delaying the passage of the Constitution Act Amendment Bill, and failing to treat it with the seriousness it deserved.

The Bill, which seeks to give South Australia a much fairer system of electoral boundaries, has been before the Council for more than a month, including 16 sitting days.

"So far only 12 Members - 11 Government and one Opposition - have spoken on the Bill," Mr. Dunstan said.

"In fact one Member, Mr. Kemp, spread his speech over two days, and last Thursday the Bill was completely ignored.

"Yesterday the Opposition, in the vain hope it could persuade the Government to treat the Bill seriously, forced the seventh division on whether the debate should be adjourned or not."

Mr. Dunstan said it was quite apparent the Government in the Council had no idea how to treat the Bill.

"In addition to prolonging the debate, it has started to question the very terms of reference given the Electoral Commission, despite the fact that they approved of the Bill setting the terms out.

"Some Members, worried that the Commission's report may mean the loss the Midland and Southern seats, are more bent on trying to save their own necks than ensuring that South Australians get the fair electoral system that they have been asking for since the last State elections."

He added that it was high time the Council adopted a more responsible attitude to the Bill, and treated it in the same way the Assembly had.

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